

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A conveyor dishwasher having at least one washing zone, at least one rinsing zone, a drying zone, a suction-extraction location for an exhaust-air stream and a transporting device for conveying wash ware in a transporting direction through the conveyor dishwasher, and wherein:

~~means are provided for producing heated air in the drying zone;~~  
a drying fan with pivotable exit nozzles is provided in the drying zone for producing a heated air stream, whereby, depending on the position of the pivotable exit nozzles, a variable flow volume of the heated air stream is channeled in a flow direction counter to the transport direction of the wash ware through the dishwasher,  
air intake openings, that can accommodate external-air streams drawn into the dishwasher, are provided at an inlet and an outlet of the dishwasher;  
the suction-extraction location is disposed upstream, relative to the transporting direction, of the at least one washing zone, the at least one rinsing zone and the drying zone; and a motor-driven fan with an air intake communicating with the interior of the dishwasher is disposed at the suction-extraction location, whereby a heated air stream is produced that moves through the dishwasher in a direction counter to the transporting direction.

2. - 4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein, in a first position of the ~~pivotably arranged~~ pivotable exit nozzles within the drying zone, the dishwasher ~~can be operated~~ being operable without clouds of steam at the inlet and outlet.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein a deflecting surface is accommodated ~~in the~~ in a region of the drying zone, beneath the pivotable exit nozzles for ~~blowing hot~~ deflecting heated air into the drying zone.

8. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 7, wherein the deflecting surface is of essentially horizontal design and runs beneath the device for transporting the wash ware.
9. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drying zone is provided with a separating curtain on the outlet side, as seen in the transporting direction of the wash ware, and this separating curtain bounds the air intake opening at the outlet of the dishwasher, via which an external-air stream can be taken into the drying zone.
10. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
a heat-recovery device is disposed in the path of air flow generated by the motor-driven fan;  
and wherein  
the capacity of the motor-driven fan is dependent on a quantity of air which can be channeled away out of the drying zone.
11. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the exhaust-air stream which is extracted via the suction-extraction location corresponds to the external-air streams which are taken in via intake openings.
12. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the pivotal exit nozzles within the drying zone can be pivotally adjusted by electromotive, pneumatic or hydraulic means or mechanically via levers.
13. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 12, wherein the pivotal exit nozzles can be pivotally adjusted during operation of the conveyor dishwasher.
14. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
a heat-recovery device is disposed in the path of air flow generated by the motor-driven fan;  
and  
the motor-driven fan is a speed-regulated fan; and  
the exhaust-air stream is regulated by regulating the speed of the fan.

15. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein:  
a heat recovery device is disposed in the path of air flow generated by the motor-driven fan;  
the motor-driven fan is provided with a variable-capacity drive for varying the capacity of  
the motor-driven fan; and  
a position of the pivotale exit nozzles and/or a capacity of the motor-driven fan are/is  
regulated in dependence on operating states of the dishwasher and/or on at least one of  
the following process parameters: temperature ( $\tau$ ), moisture content (x) in the drying  
zone or at the inlet and outlet.
16. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 15, wherein the  
regulation of a manipulated-variable position of the pivotale exit nozzles and/or the capacity of  
the drive of the motor-driven fan are/is regulated in dependence on at least one of (1) wash ware  
which is present in the drying zone, (2) the moisture content (x) of the ~~hot~~ heated air which is  
circulating in the drying zone and (3) the temperature ( $\tau$ ) prevailing in the drying zone.